

## In the News

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### USDA 2008 Hispanic Heritage Month Opening Observance

USDA will hold its 2008 Hispanic Heritage Month Observance on Wednesday, September 24, 2008, on the Whitten Building Patio at 10 a.m. This year's theme is "Getting Involved: Our Families, Our Community, Our Nation." All USDA employees are invited to attend.

The program will include remarks by USDA Chief of Staff Dale Moore and Food and Service Administrator Roberto Salazar. The Keynote Speaker will be Jeffrey Vargas, Chief Learning Officer, National Security Administration, United States Department of Energy. Immediately following the program there will be a food tasting opportunity and a simultaneous cultural performance by Mystic Warriors, a Bolivian instrumental group.

USDA strives to create a diverse workforce where all employees value and demonstrate their respect for each other's unique attributes so that the workplace is free from harassment, discrimination, and intolerance. To achieve these goals, the ASCR sponsors a variety of activities, including diversity awareness training, in order to enhance diversity, inclusion, equal access and equal opportunity within USDA and with all USDA stakeholders. This Hispanic Heritage Month Opening Observance is one of these activities.

To learn more about the diversity and inclusion activities sponsored by ASCR contact:

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- Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights Memorandum on Workplace Diversity and Inclusion ([link to memo](#))
- USDA's Diversity Mission Statement ([link to statement](#))